

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /080 W
----- 039461

R 100937Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3305

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DOHAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

RRUQWKJXAMEMBASEW KUWAIT 2390

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

DUQNNT/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 295

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1819

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT, TC

SUBJECT : UAE INTERNAL AFFAIRS-MOVEMENT EXCEEDINGLY SLOW

REF: A. ABU DHABI 1538; B. ABU DHABI 1243

1. PACE OF SHAIKH ZAYID'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNAL
UNITY OF UAE, MOST IMMEDIATELY THROUGH INTEGRATION OF MILITARY

AND SECURITY FORCES, REMAINS AT BEST EXCEEDINGLY SLOW. WORD
AROUND TOWN IS THAT REPORT OF MILITARY EXPERTS (REF A) DELIVER-
ED SOME TIME AGO AND UNDER-

SECRETARY MFA CONFIRMED TO CHARGE

SEPT 4 THAT REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED, THOUGH NO DATE MENTIONED.

MOREOVER, WHEN SHAIKH ZAYID STUCK TO HIS PLANS AND RETURNED

AUGUST 30 FROM HIS SUMMER SOJOURN IN PARIS, LONDON, MOROCCO,

VIENNA ET AL, STAGE SEEMED SET FOR ANTICIPATED SUPREME

COUNCIL (SC) MEETING TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS ON INTEGRATION

ISSUES. IF ONE BELIEVED RUMORS, ONLY QUESTION WAS WHEN SC

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WOULD MEET, WITH DATES ANYWHERE FROM SEPT 4 TO 12 BEING

MENTIONED.

2. BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED. QUITE THE CONTRARY, RAS AL-KHAIMAH RULER, SHAIKH SAQR, TOLD CHARGE SEPT 7 THAT THERE WOULD DEFINITELY BE NO REPEAT NO SC MEETING UNTIL AFTER RAMADAN. (LOCAL NEWSPAPER AL-FAJR, SEPT 7 CARRIED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO FONMIN SUWAIDI LIKEWISE INDICATING NEXT SC SESSION WOULD BE AFTER ID. WHILE THIS ITEM NOT CARRIED IN MORE PROMINENT DAILY, ITTIHAD, IT AT LEAST TENDS CONFIRM SAQR'S STATEMENT.) MOREOVER, SAQR NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT EVEN SEEN REPORT OF MILITARY EXPERTS AND EXPRESSED GREAT--ENTIRELY CREDITABLY--SURPRISE AT INDICATIONS THAT REPORT ALREADY DELIVERED TO ABU DHABI. AS TO WHAT FUTURE MIGHT HOLD, SHAIKH SAQR, IN TYPICALLY IRONIC FASHION, NOTED THAT SHAIKH ZAYID WAS ALREADY MAKING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF DECISIONS IN NAME OF SC. WITH THIS OCCURRING IN ABSENCE SC MEETING, IT DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. FYI WE HAVE NOT NOTED ANY SUCH SC DECISIONS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY. SAQR IS THEREFORE PRESUMABLY REFERRING EITHER TO PRIVATELY CONVEYED MESSAGES OR CONCEIVABLY, GIVEN HIS SOMEWHAT JAUNDICED PERSPECTIVE, IS EXAGGERATING SITUATION. IN EITHER CASE, HE CLEARLY HAS NOT BECOME CONVERT TO SHAIKH ZAYID'S CAUSE. END FYI

3. COMMENT: IN MANY RESPECTS LACK OF ACTION IS NOT SURPRISING, WITH SUMMER LASSITUDE ADDING TO PREVAILING TENDENCY FOR THINGS TO HAPPEN SLOWLY HERE IN ANY CASE. THIS ALL MORE TRUE IN THAT SUWAIDI, WHO INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN UNIFICATION EFFORTS, DID NOT RETURN WITH ZAYID, ARRIVING IN ABU DHABI ONLY SEPT 5 OR 6. THIS WEEK BEFORE START OF RAMADAN WAS IN EFFECT LOST, AND IT NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT MUCH TO HAPPEN DURING FASTING PERIOD. ON OTHER HAND, THERE ARE SOME SIGNS--LARGELY UNRELATED--THAT THERE COULD BE MORE SUBSTANCE BEHIND DELAYS. IT CURIOUS, FOR EXAMPLE, IF MILITARY EXPERT'S REPORT HAS IN FACT BEEN DELIVERED, THAT SHAIKH SAQR--AND PRESUMABLY OTHER RULERS--HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN COPIES. THEY CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO AGREE TO PROPOSAL WITHOUT HAVING HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT. ON ANOTHER POINT, IN ADDITION TO STRAINS IN ABU DHABI-DUBAI RELATIONS OVER LATTER'S OIL DEAL (LONDON CONFIDENTIAL

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11872), IT STRUCK US AS SOMEWHAT STRANGE THAT SHAIKH RASHID SHOULD SCHEDULE ONE WEEK VISIT TO PAKISTAN (HAVING ONLY JUST RETURNED FROM MONTH IN LONDON) WHICH RESULTED IN ZAYID RETURNING TO ABU DHABI EXACTLY MIDWAY THROUGH RASHID'S ABSENCE. MOREOVER, ALL OF RASHID'S SONS WERE ALSO APPARENTLY AWAY SINCE THERE WAS NO PROMINENT MEMBER OF DUBAI RULING FAMILY IN EVIDENCE AT AIRPORT ON PRESIDENT'S RETURN. FINALLY, SHAIKH SAQR TOLD CHARGE

THAT COMMITTEE CURRENTLY WORKING ON DRAFT OF PERMANENT
CONSTITUTION WAS STILL ACTIVELY DEBATING APPROPRIATE LOCA-
TION OF UAE'S PERMANENT CAPITAL--THAT SELECTION OF ABU
DHBAL FAR FROM SET. THIS LAST POINT MAY WELL BE WISHFUL THINK-
ING ON SAQR'S PART, BUT IF TRUE WE DOUBT ZAYID WOULD BE
PLEASED. ALL OF ABOVE COULD EASILY ADD UP TO LITTLE OR
NOTHING. BUT CLEARLY, WHETHER FOR REASONS OF GENERAL LASSI-
TUDE OR BECAUSE OF REAL SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES OR, MORE
LIKELY, COMBINATION OF THE TWO, PACE OF FURTHER INTERNAL
UNIFICATION OF UAE APPEARS LIKELY REMAIN DELIBERATE
AT BEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, PROGRESS REPORTS, REORGANIZATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH01819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750313-0049
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750964/aaaacegk.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ABU DHABI 1538, 75 ABU DHABI 1243
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : UAE INTERNAL AFFAIRS-MOVEMENT EXCEEDINGLY SLOW
TAGS: PINT, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006